pearl pink

Meca Tanaka

4

TOKYOPOP

Manga
Romance/Comedy
US $8.99
CAN $11.99

Our little heroine's passed the gauntlet of auditions and been given the chance to star in a new television drama. The real drama takes off from there! Explosions, fighting...and a kissing scene? With Tomoko growing closer to Kanji every day, she may be forced to choose between her career and her relationship. As the curtain on *Pearl Pink* comes to a close, is a happy ending in store for Tomoko and Kanji?

"Laugh-out-loud funny."
–IGN.com

ISBN: 978-1-59816-7784
50999

T
TEEN
AGE 13+

ROMANCE

pearl pink

Volume 4
by Meca Tanaka

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Pearl Pink

Volume 4
Meca Tanaka

Contents

Step 16 5
Step 17 37
Step 18 67
Step 19 99
Step 20 129
Final Step 159
Special Addition: "Promise" 193
Mecasite Condensed! 197

Step16
pearl pink

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

KANJI INUI (11TH GRADE)

His family owns Dog Run, a small boutique talent agency. He's a genius at finding new faces and a whiz with domestic chores. From cooking to doing makeup.

KANTA

Tamako's pet and best friend ♡

TAMAKO MOMONO (8TH GRADE)

Secret child of popular idol/actress Shinju Momono. She's currently living with the Inuis and has a crush of galactic proportions on Kanji. Limber and athletic as a monkey.

SHINJU MOMONO

Tamako's mother and a famous idol/actress. Her real first name is Make. Star of the mega-hit TV drama "Idol P!"

RAIZO HISHIKAWA

Member of the tiny band Rain. Scouted by Kanji and hence has pledged his life to pleasing the man who gave him success!

KINICHI INUI

Chief owner of the tiny Dog Run talent agency. In addition to being Kanji's father. A wacky, but nice, middle-aged guy.

Catch the beginning of the story in *Dear Pink* Volumes 1, 2 and 3, currently on sale from TOKYOPOP! ♡

October.
Hurry up, Tamako! We're already late!
Yeesh
I'm coming, I'm coming!!
Grr
I told her long hair was easier to maintain, but did she listen? No!
And after all the trouble it took to grow!
Grr
How many times do I have to tell you?!
Then which one am I aiming for?
Attractive but a criminal
Sweet but younger
Wait! Could this be "love"?
Crap!
in concerts
Um
Tamako's always on the edge of some crisis or another
(Age wise too)
The First Episode!!
IDOL

It wasn't my choice! It's for my character!
Tamako Momono, age 14.
For the first time, she's ignoring the plans made for her by Kanji Inui, the heir-apparent to Dog Run, a tiny talent agency.
Going against all advice, her debut role was entirely her own choosing.
And that role is...?
Action!
No.3

A male...
...villain!!
TAKE 1
'Star Rain~'? Ha! Don't make me laugh!
What can they do against a girl like--?
CUT!!
You're a guy, remember?!
Obviously, she still has a long way to go.
ズシーン..
Finally, after 10 takes
TAKE
Erk
Don't grimace!!
TAKE 7
Too wimpy!!
TAKE 8

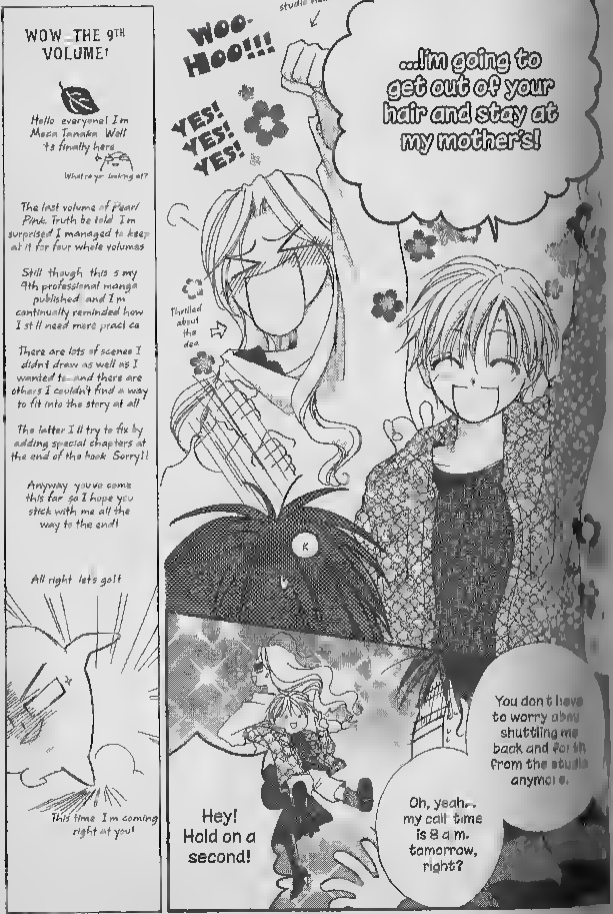
Drawn super deformed for your viewing pleasure.
The movie I'm in is a sweeps-week special called "Idol Sentai: Star Rain."
It's pretty much your standard "group of teenage heroes fight evil to save the world" fare.
I play a character named Black Hurricane. He's supposed to be the lackey of the movie's main villain.
Ooh, that's it, Tamako-chan! The expression is perfect!
HATE...
Stars of the show~ the boy band RAIN
Really, we're all playing ourselves. No getting "in character"! ♡

I may be a newbie, but I'm not asking for special treatment.
I'm going to work hard to make it!!
Here, eat this.
It'll make you feel better.
Yosh!
Same age as Kanji
Has been here a every day
Man, Kanji is sure dedicated.
munch crunch
Takes napkins to study
Wasn't he going to apply to some colleges?
I wonder if he's preparing for exams.
Kanji-kun!! What presents did you bring for us today?!
Squee
Mega popular with the female staff
Welcome
Uh... thank

College? Yeah, I'm going to give it a shot.
He's what?!
Dad says a degree is good insurance, just in case something goes wrong with Dog Run.
Hm?
Uh-huh. I think they start in two weeks.
Today's Saturday
Aren't midterms coming up soon, too?
Changing Room
What time is there left to study?
While I'm waiting around for you to quit blowing your lines.
That soon?
You make me lunch every day to monitor my nutrition...
...and you make the rest of the crew snacks so they aren't left out...
...and you even take my script and pencil in kanji pronunciations to help me learn my lines.

Hey, Tomako-chan? You're living with that assistant of yours, right?
Huh?! Oh, er... Uh...
More like I'm just freeloading off of his family.
I'll nail my scenes today so you can go home early!
Yeah, right. Like that's going to happen.
You're so mean!!
Remember? I was Mom's... er, Shinju Momono's "secret child."
I was in hiding!
Starring Shinju Momono
IDOL P.I THE MOVIE
MOMOKO
Ah
Oh, yeah.
Well, everybody knows about you now, right?
Huh? Whoa, that's right.
Hm?
Wait a minute.

...be able to free up more time for Kan-chan to study.
So, since you've got loads of big tests coming up...
Director Izumi!
Hm?
If this works...
...I think I just might...
Um...
Do you know if they're filming the "Idol P.I." movie right now?
What do you care? You didn't get that part. Practice your lines for this one!
No, it's not that.
No


WOW—THE 9TH VOLUME!
Hello everyone! I'm Moca Tanaka. Well it's finally here
What're ya looking at?
The last volume of Pearl Pink. Truth be told I'm surprised I managed to keep at it for four whole volumes
Still though, this is my 4th professional manga published, and I'm continually reminded how I still need more practice
There are lots of scenes I didn't draw as well as I wanted to—and there are others I couldn't find a way to fit into the story at all
The latter I'll try to fix by adding special chapters at the end of the book. Sorry!!
Anyway, you've come this far, so I hope you stick with me all the way to the end!
All right, let's go!!
This time I'm coming right at you!
Was filming in the studio next door
Woo-Hoo!!!
YES! YES! YES!
...I'm going to get out of your hair and stay at my mother's!
Thrilled about the idea
Hey! Hold on a second!
Oh, yeah... my call time is 8 a.m. tomorrow, right?
You don't have to worry about shuttling me back and forth from the studio anymore.

Ya hear me, monkey girl?!
Tamako!
What?! I'm just trying to do some things for myself.
This way, you can hit the books--
Let me worry about my own future!
Huh?
Worry? I don't worry about you!
I just don't want you blaming me if your grades suck!
So, get your butt out of here and get to work!
Black Hurricane Mode

That's all it took.
I started living away from home (?) for the first time since I arrived in Tokyo.
...NEXT MORNING...
in SHINJUKU HANG ON
Mom's pajamas

Good morning, Tamako darling! Breakfast is ready! ♡ ♡
Uh, thanks, Mom.
But...
Yes, dear?
If you go pedal to the metal with the mom stuff, you'll exhaust yourself
Th- hanks...
I'm your driver!
Thanks for picking me up. I know it's short notice...
I don't mind. It was a perfect opportunity
Kanai-kun needs to study every minute he can, so it's all good.
He needs to remember that an education is more important than anything.
Um... really?

I know my son wants to follow in my footsteps at Dog Run, but showbiz is hardly the most stable business out there.
One little slip-up, and everything can go belly-up. I'm trying my hardest, but Dog Run is still a really tiny, fragile agency.
I figure that, should the worst happen, having a college degree will give Kanai-kun more options for a better future.
He doesn't have to worry.
Easier said than done!
Put some backbone into it!
I'm going to become a mega-star, so the agency will be just fine.
No.3
I'll prove them all wrong!!
That's odd.
What're bento today?
Scrim
Dammit!

Sigh... I wonder what Kan-chan is doing.
Better be study ing
This doesn't count as procrastinating-- I swear!
I have to get these ready so Dad can take them to the film crew tomorrow.
Common scene before exams
Tamako! Come help me with

It's... strange.
I'd better do laundry--
No, dammit. I need to study
Yeesh
Rehears-al!
Kan-chan isn't here. Mom isn't here.
I'm putting on my costume and speaking my lines all by myself.
It wasn't very long ago that I couldn't do anything without someone around for me to lean on.

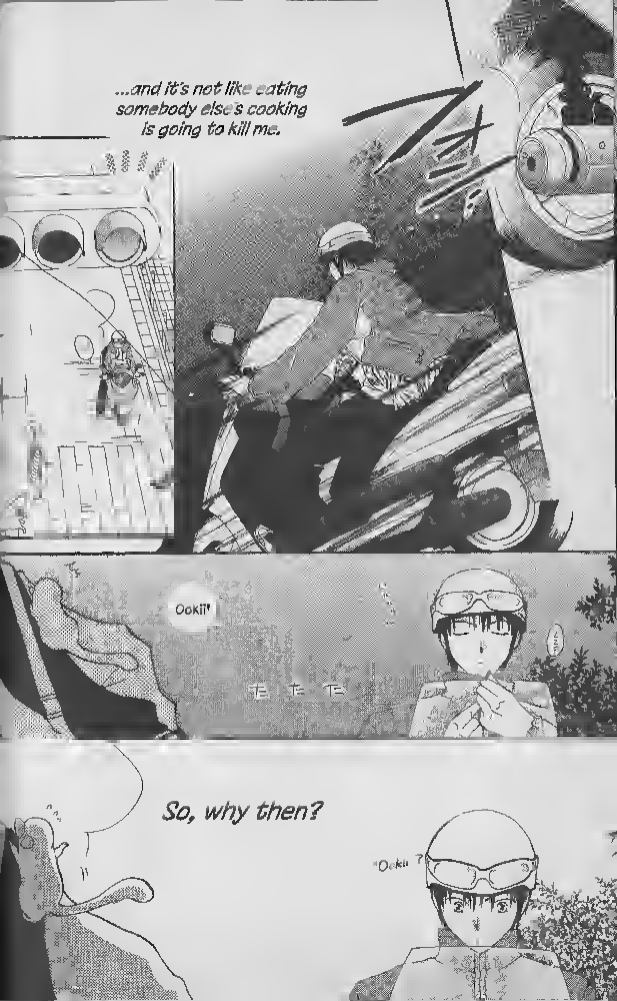
I've finally proven my worth. I'm standing on my own.
Hah heh, careful she doesn't eat you up...
...Mr. Hero!
Okay, cut!

Everyone's finally accepted me.
It's awesome.
DING
DONG
Momono-san? Momono-san!
Hm, let's see. What do I want to draw on her face?
Ah! Don't!!!
Momono-san, wake up. Do you have to work this afternoon?
I'm kidding
Huh?
Ack! I'm late!
Thank you!

He's certainly a gentleman.
That guy's unnecessary
Thanks.
Okay!
Great work, Tamaka-chan! You're really on a roll!
She's really been working hard!
Yeah

Would you like for me to give her a message?
Damn! Missed her!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
EEEK!
Y'know, Momono-san has been acting strange lately. Like she's distracted.
I know she's super busy, so keep an eye on her, k-y?

Filming is going well...


...and it's not like eating somebody else's cooking is going to kill me.
Ookii!
TE TE TE
So, why then?
"Ookii"

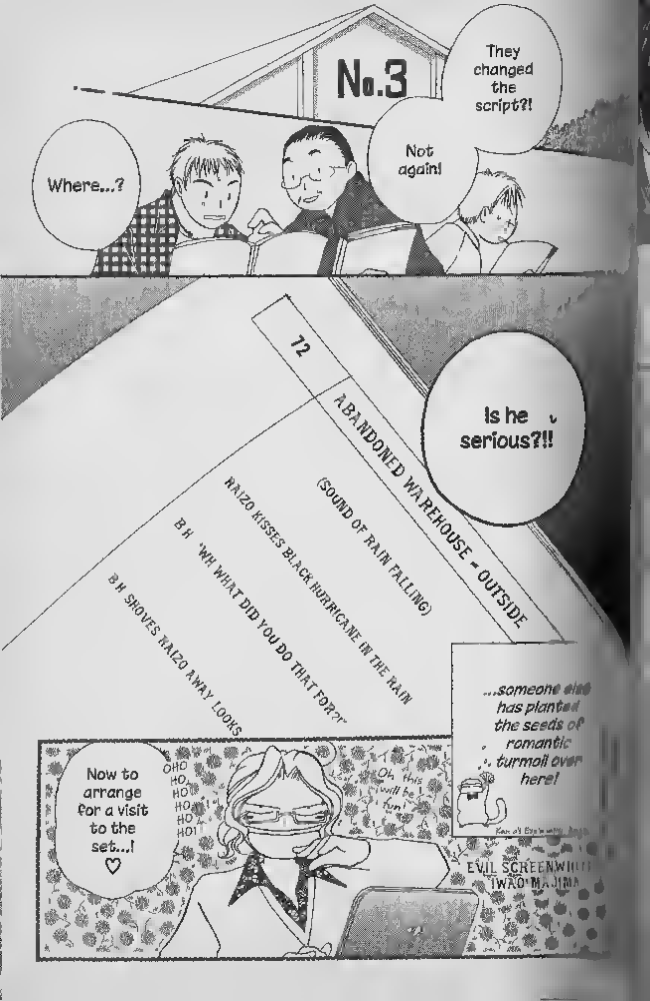
Why does it feel like...
...I have a huge, gaping hole in my life?

Dammit, I know it's weird, but...
I-if I stay here much longer, I don't think I'll be able to stop myself from h-h-hugging you...so...
before that happens
No! I... I can't!
Hold it! You haven't even looked at me! Turn around!
Leggo!
But now I've seen you, so I'm going home. Bye!!
Maintain control...
...and be normal. Normal!!
THADUMP
Tamako.
Crap!
W--
W...
W...
Wow! Coinci-dence!
?!
You're going toward my house, right? That means you came to see me, right?
Yeah...I guess, but...
WHOA! WHOA!!
So, um, yeah! Good to see you! Bye!!!
ACK! FAILURE!!!

Me,
too.

I...I...I...
No!
Is he...?
But he's...?
What the heck?
...Huh?
AAAAAAA AAAAAAA AAAAAAA AAAAHH ?!!
AAAAAAA AAAAAAA AAAAAAA AAAAHH!!

むっ
Losing her mind...
Crap, I didn't give her the bento
まっかっ
か
I can't believe it! What the hell's wrong with me?!
Am I really...? No! But... But...!
So while the seeds of romance finally begin to sprout over here...

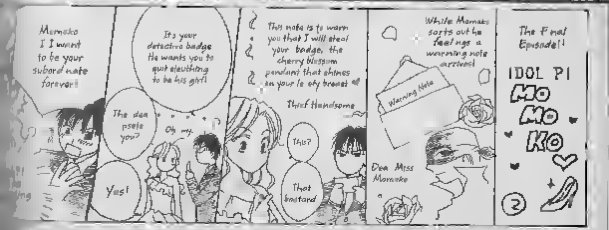

No.3
Where...?
Not again!
They changed the script?!
72
ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - OUTSIDE
(SOUND OF RAIN FALLING)
RAIZO KISSES BLACK HURRICANE IN THE RAIN
B H "WH WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!"
B H SHOVES RAIZO AWAY. LOOKS
Is he serious?!!
...someone else has planted the seeds of romantic turmoil over here!
Now to arrange for a visit to the set...! ♡
OHO HO HO HO HO HO!
Oh, this will be fun!
EVIL SCREENWRITER
IWAO MAJIMA

Inui Residence
That evening's dinner
Why's my dinner packed in a bento box?

Pearl pin

Step IV

Whimsical screenwriter Iwao Mashima visits the Inui home..
Inui Residence 1st floor office
"Star Rain" is a superhero movie, right? Superhero movies are meant for kids, right? Nope! Wrong!
That's a silly prejudice! A misconception! If we took that approach, we'd be just like every other movie. That's why I decided..


Momoko I I want to be your subordinate forever!
It's your detective badge! He wants you to quit assisting to be his girl!
The idea posts you?
Oh my
Yes!
This note is to warn you that I will steal your badge, the cherry blossom pendant that shines on your left chest of
Third Handsome
This?
That instead
While Momoko starts out he feelings a warning note arrives!
A warning letter
Dear Miss Momoko
The Final Episode!!
IDOL PI
MO MO KO
2

POOP
...that you two will share a hot, steamy on-screen kiss. 'Kay? ♡
"Black Hurricane" the (MALE) villain: Tamako Momoro
"Red Thunder" The Hero: Kaiz Hishikawa
Black Hurricane reveals that she's secretly been a girl all this time! The audience will cheer!
Cue my award speech
Really? ☆
BLACK ROSES
That's quite arbitrary of you...
Kanji-kun! Is the tea ready yet?
An easy fix!
But our characters are both boys, remember?!
あれー

Tamako Momono. She's barely begun shooting her debut film...
...but she's already been assigned her first kissing scene!
• Studio •
Knew I heard a POOP
TEA BOMB Always open a can of loose leaf tea very carefully when there's no one I'd
Let's all alone in the world, she swore revenge Evil mastermind Dark Star took advantage of the pain in her heart, transforming her into his right-hand henchman
The villain Black Hurricane was originally a normal young girl whose pop-idol father died of a sudden illness without ever making it big in showbiz.
Hmmm

LOPSIDED

Looking back on it, this is one reason why there's one person I really regret not getting married to.

Hmm

My hero ne wound up being waaay more ch ldish than I thought and before I knew it I'd spent all my time on her

So I never did get the chance to flesh out Kanji-kun the way I wanted to. Instead Tamako grew up really really really fast. That made it so the storyline becomes more like "a mature Tamako grabs Kanji kuns attention." I'd kinda hoped to try something more the reverse but oh well

What? Trying to make his case now?

And what's he naked fo?

I hate show business!! I shall avenge my father against them!

Lord Dark Star will conquer the world, and they'll pay for ignoring dear ol' Dad!

Learning of Black Hurricane's tragic past, Red Thunder, the leader of Star Rain, falls in love with her.

Enters in costume for Black Hurricane.

"Wake up, Hurri! Snap out of it!"

Freeze

"Get back!!"

"Get away from--"
Ack!!!
Then let's give it a go!
Not in this ...ition!! Oop! Oop!!
Don't humiliate yourself by saying something silly and childish like, "I want my first kiss to be with Kanji!"
No! I know better than that! This is my job!
Sexual harass-ment!!
YEEP!
We don't have to do that part yet!!
Why not? We should get comfortable with each other!
Gyaaah!

The practice studio. A sacred place, sir!
Just where do you think you are, boy?
Hm?
Hmm?
It's late. You two should head home.
Yessir!
"Me, too."
Now that I think about it...
...this is the first time we've seen each other sin...then.
Have any tests left?
...Last one is tomorrow!
Oh?
Awesome That means you can watch us shoot the kissing scene!
We're done after lunch.
MEEP!
You'll be there?!

Would you rather I not come?
Good luck.
All right.
Omg
Oh, man.
"No! I know better than that! This is my job!
This is so embarrassing!!
Nice hollow sound
AAAARGH!!
Of course you can come! Please come!

Good luck on your final exam!
Hey, Tamako-chan?
What?
Did something happen between you and Kan—
Not really
He just gave me a big, warm hug the other day because I really looked like I wanted one. Which I did...!
Sing me mushy stuff like "Ha ha ha ha ha"
That's mushy?
Oh. Okay.
It's... hard.
I mean, he's always so...nice.

I thought it's what I wanted...
...Kanji and I chasing our dreams together.
"Good luck"?
Hmph.

How come you get to be the love interest?!
What about me?! I've been playing a female since day one!
I'm sorry, Serika-chan!
Manage Fuuka Serika Kuratani
He's not the only one who's ticked, girl.
You're seeing Shinju Momono, Right?
It's just that Tamako-chan reminds me of someone, but I can't put my finger on whom.
What's wrong, Izumi-san?
Nothing..

That's it, isn't it?
Dunno
Hello, Kanji-kun!
Oh, my!
Y-yeah...
I organized it according to all the revisions.
REVISION 1
Black Hurricane's History
You should come by the set.
All done with midterms, are we?
You can catch a ride with me.
Oh, is this the script?

WAO!!!!!! WHAT THE $#%$ IS UP WITH THIS SCRIPT?!?!
Time to face the music...
It's all right !!! I'll take my scooter, Shinju-san.
You go on ahe--!
This will never, never do!
Oh, gawd! What if he finds out?!
Shinju-san...
Tamako is completely clueless! You know that!
How could you let this happen--?! No!! No, no, no!!!

When did that stop being enough?
...!
##
"...am not a woman. I am a warrior!"
"I'm going to make my father's dream come true!"
"I..."
"No matter what it takes. No matter what I have to do."
Whoaaaa...
No.11

She's turning from sidekick villain to hero pretty quick
She's going to be great.
The girl is getting better and better with every take.
They should really beef up her part. Put her name above the title.
Here take that Ha!
What do you think you're doing? You trying to steal the movie?
Like this Is my fault!
You should act better!
Miss Tamako Momono! Freeze!

What's going on, Dad?
Kanâi-kun, could you go with her?
Hush. Go to work, and don't worry.
But— But—I
It's a minor similarity. No one will see it.
Is there someone you're still hiding from Tamako?

"Get back!!"
"Get away from--"
"Hurri--"
Relax! No man would go near a face like that.
This isn't working. Break for 10, everyone!
Sorry, sir...
If you're really that sorry, then bite the bullet already!
Yessir!
Hm?
Ah, good.
?

Huh?
Nothing. I just wanted to check... I mean, the way you were quietly crying last night, I've been pretty worried that—
Storage Room
Soaked actors sitting in the sun
......
Sorry.
Promise not to tell Kan-chan about this, okay?
Lookit this weird junk
God...

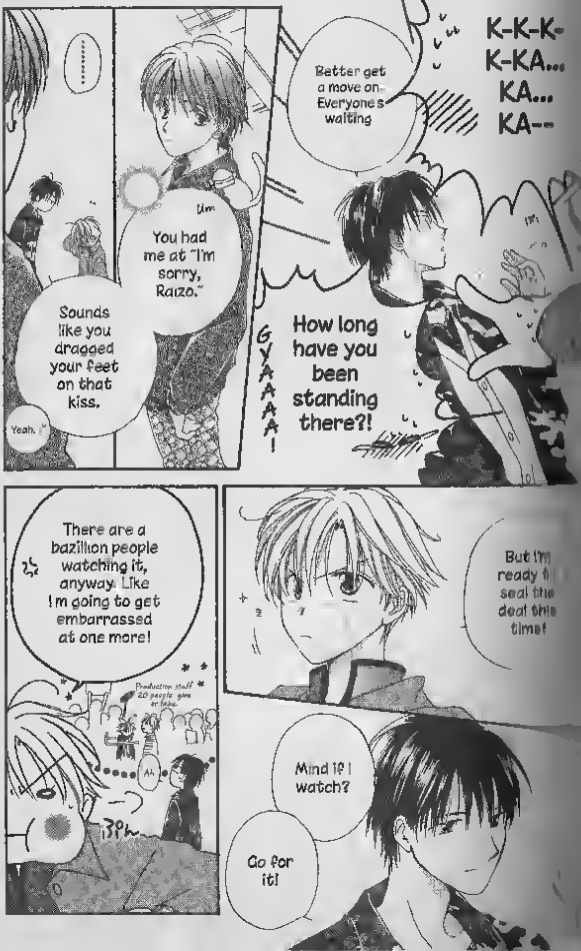
Stoic
Ack!
"Stoic." It's the way you're acting right...
...now!
Y'know, Tamaki-chan, you're being over-stoic about everything.
Sto what?
AAAAUUUUGH!!!
Gross! Gross! Gross! I can't see!! It stinks!!
And the drama's getting boring to watch.
You really need to be more--
Shut up!
Seriously, girl, gloss over it all you want, but it's painfully obvious.
Crying in private, stiffening up in a kiss scene...

Why?
I know it's hard for others to understand, but try.
I'm sorry...
...but let me be this "stoic" thing, okay?
For once
he's irked.
SHH
Kan-chan is always so open, so kind...
He'll hold his hand out to anyone.

He has so much compassion...
...and he's considerate of everyone.
Even when he gets all weird and pervy, it's just who he is.
.....
In his own clumsy way...
...he tells you it's all okay, that he accepts you as you are.
I love his every quirk.
But I have to wait.

I have to be focused on my work right now so that Kan-chan and I can have a secure future.
I... I'm sorry, Raizo. I don't want to screw up.
I'll get the scene right this time. I swear.

Break's almost over!
As soon as you're ready, you two!
Whew!
Freaky.


K-K-K-
K-KA...
KA...
KA--
Better get a move on- Everyone's waiting
GYAAAAA!
How long have you been standing there?!
Um
You had me at "I'm sorry, Raizo."
Sounds like you dragged your feet on that kiss.
Yeah.
But I'm ready to seal the deal this time!
Mind if I watch?
Go for it!
There are a bazillion people watching it, anyway. Like I'm going to get embarrassed at one more!
Production staff 20 people gone on hiatus
AA
30h

Why'd you lie?
You heard her! She just went and chose her work over me!!
She clearly showed me what's more important
Yeah! Let's do it!
Ready?
But...if that's how she really feels. I'll back her 100%.
Um yeah about that uh ...sooo...
take the lead, would you?

This is it. This is the world I wanted. Now...
You can count on me.
Okay.
...watch me work it!
Darling?
Ready, everyone Take 6!

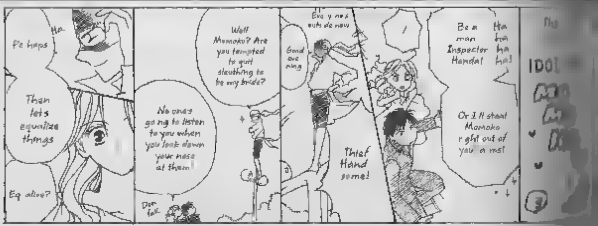
Holy--! Mashima-san?!
Hm? Oh, my face? What can I say, the Pearl Princess has a swell backhand.
It was about...
...Tamako's father, wasn't it?
"Get back!!"
"Get aw--"
WAH!

Mph!
Later...

No chance to prepare...!
aggressive ...!!
French kiss
A long, extended kiss between Good and Evil...
(over 30 seconds long; aired uncut)
...would become a legend in the superhero genre. But...
...well, that is a story for another time.
EEEK
Why me!!!
Kanji asked me to take the lead...
...so I did.
Rubba dub dub thanks for the grub

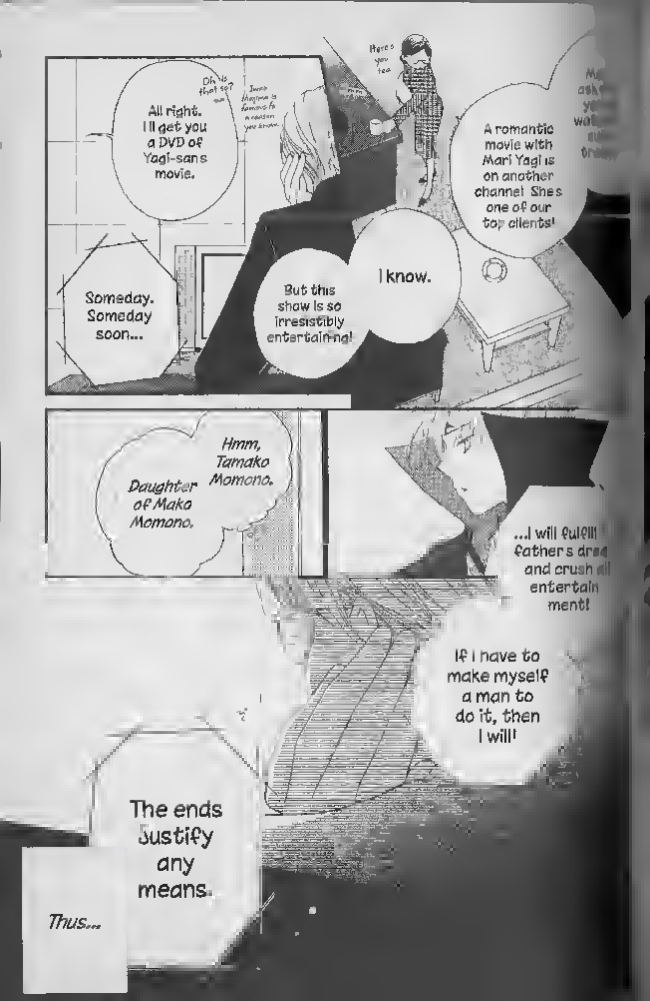
Step18
pearl pink

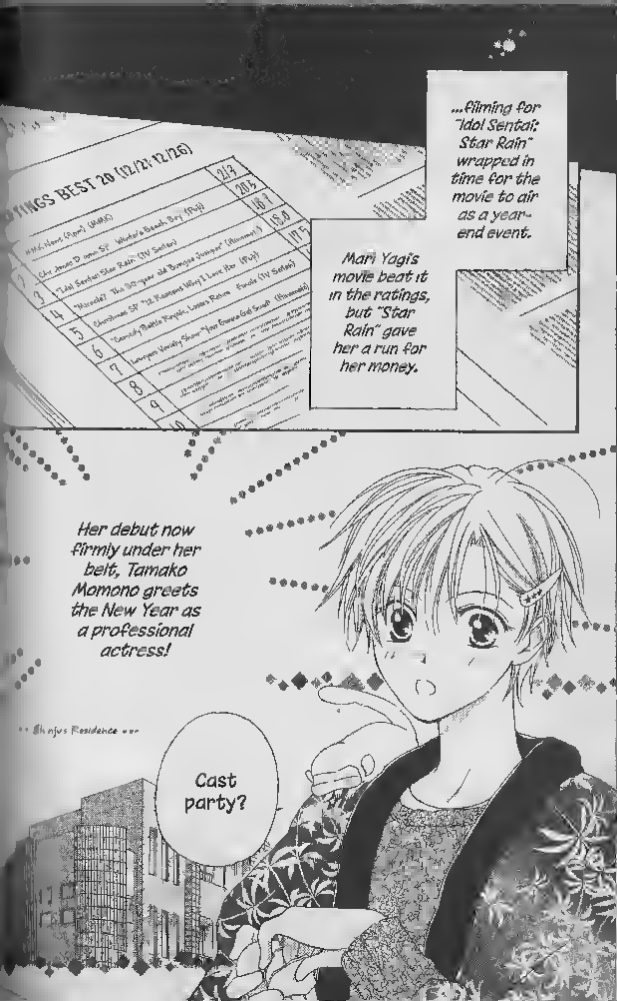
The end of the year...
Final Star, shine bright in our song! Let everyone who hears it feel its glow!
Hurri, wake up! Come back to the light!!
AAARGH!!


He hops
Then lets equalize things
Eq alive?
Wait! Momoko? Are you tempted to quit sleuthing to be my bride?
No one's going to listen to you when you look down your nose at them!
Don't be!
Good one, ning
Thief! Hand some!
Be a man Inspector Handa!
Or I'll shoot Momoko right out of you! a mo!
Ha ha ha ha!
The IDOL

← Cont' on pg 100

Stop that infernal racket!
I don't need to "wake up" from anything! The light is useless to me!
EAGLE PROMOTION
Here you go, Mr. President--Oh, my!


All right. I'll get you a DVD of Yagi-san's movie.
Someday. Someday soon...
But this show is so irresistibly entertaining!
I know.
A romantic movie with Mari Yagi is on another channel. She's one of our top clients!
Hmm, Tamako Momono.
Daughter of Mako Momono.
...I will fulfill father's dream and crush all entertainment!
If I have to make myself a man to do it, then I will!
The ends justify any means.
Thus...


...filming for "Idol Sentai: Star Rain" wrapped in time for the movie to air as a year-end event.
Mari Yagi's movie beat it in the ratings, but "Star Rain" gave her a run for her money.
Her debut now firmly under her belt, Tamako Momono greets the New Year as a professional actress!
Shinjyu Residence
Cast party?

KISSES

Wow, the wo one hackina kiss wasnt t!

Truth be told having Raizo snatch all of Tamako's firsts out from under Kanji's nose was part of my plan from the beginning. He was also the first to see Tamako naked (Remember volume 1?)

But you know I don't think I'll ever get used to drawing kissing scenes and stuff like that. I think even that one between Raizo and Tamako was done with a permanent blush on my cheeks. To make things worse after I sent it in

But but drawing love scenes is so embarrassing! Especially when I have to redo them! I bet it's even a little embarrassing for real life actors when they have to do take after take like my characters!

Not even my assistants are allowed to touch the love scene pages

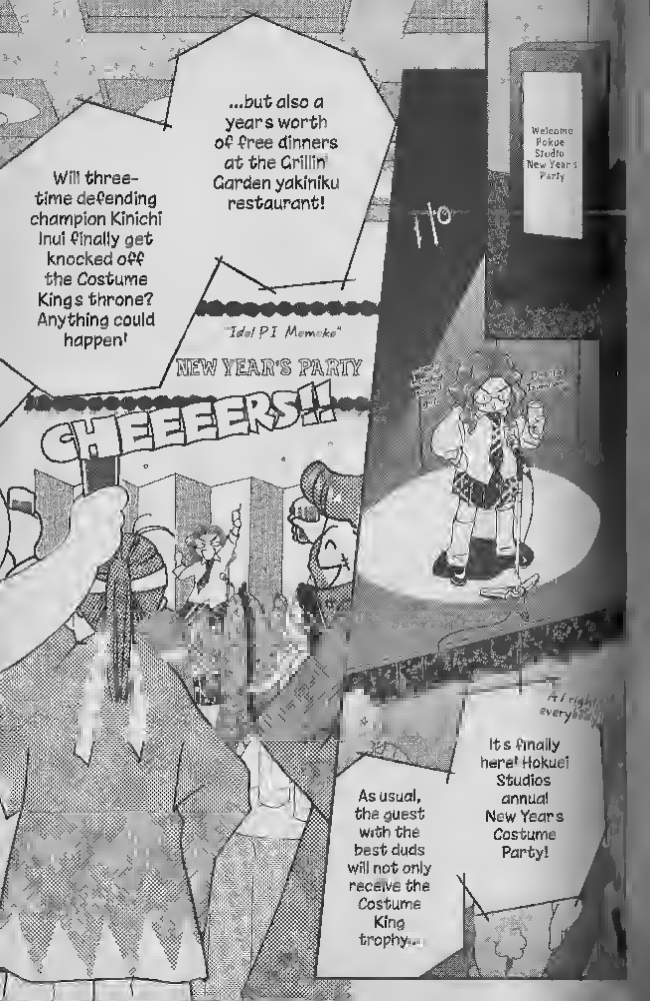
Yo
All
Year
Cas
Par
The production company behind both "Idol P.I." and "Star Rain" throws one every year.
Really? Am I--?
A pretty unglamorous New Year's for one glamorous star and her daughter
Of course you're invited!

Woo-
Is it
those
part
they al
show on
Oh ho ho
Ha ha ha
Fash on Ka
Tee hee hee.
Here, check out some of last year's pictures. ♡
ALBUM

Hey! These are all of Kinichi-san! Where am I?
Kanji-kun, how are you? We haven't seen you in ages!
Still studying for exams?
After midterms...
...Kan-chan had to dive right into his college entrance exams, so I ended up staying with my Mom for good.
Oh, well. You'd better start thinking about what costume you want to wear, Tamako!
Costume...?
Hello, Momono residence. Oh, my!

Stop by for dinner any time.
He told me that back at the beginning of December.
But I was always afraid I'd disturb his studies, so I never went.
Ahh
No new work since then, either...
I wonder if he'll come to the cast party.
He likes costumes.
Okay...
...so no one has asked about Tamako's real father? That's good.
Thanks, Kanai-kun.
You're welcome
U--... by the way...
Yeah?

How's Tamako doing?
Hm?
I'm not telling.
Huh?
If you want to know, then come out on New Years!
And wear a costume! ♡
Ho ho ho ho mm
I can't wait!


It's finally here! Hokuei Studios annual New Years Costume Party!
As usual, the guest with the best duds will not only receive the Costume King trophy...
...but also a years worth of free dinners at the Grillin' Garden yakiniku restaurant!
Will three-time defending champion Kinichi Inui finally get knocked off the Costume Kings throne? Anything could happen!
"Idol P.I. Memeko"
NEW YEAR'S PARTY
CHEEEERS!!
Welcome Hokuei Studio New Year's Party
110

Policeman! Bumblebee
Whoa, I didn't know the boss was the defending champion.
Hmm
This will require drastic measures...
Kaiza was also invited of course.
Ooooh!
There are some good costumes this year!
And what's up with your costume, Kaiza!? Why the heck are you wearing handcuffs?
Some kind of fetish?
It's my father's doing! He locked me up and ran off with the key!!
Where's the bastard hiding?!
Looking for me?

Come back here!!
OH HO HO HO HO!
The key is right here, Little Police Boy!
Catch me if you can! ♡
Damn, he's good! His son is a play-along accessory!
Rain dressed thematically
Actually plays by sort of long
Hey, look! Is that--?
Hn?
Ooh, nice back.
Very slender...
No way!!
Gasp! It's Thief Sexy!

Kan-chan...
CRACK
3-inch heels
Owww
High heels
Terrible weapons for an amateur to wear.
-Kaoru
Now that was stupid.
Hm?

He represents Mari now that she's in "Idol P.I."
It's not normal for him to mingle with the "little people."
Still
Unnormal
What's wrong, Serika-chan?
The president of Eagle Productions is here.
I swear I saw him.
The head of the agency that fired you?!
Everyone here is used to me as a boy in the Black Hurricane drag.
Being a girl is cross-dressing!
Just anyone, not me!
Whatever
I can walk fine by myself!
I...!
What's with the dress?
This is a costume party, you know
You dressed normal
No, it's a costume

I'll probably leave them on for the rest of the party anyway, though
Why?
Why are you wearing handcuffs? Do they hurt?
Um...
Kinda.
thudump
Because they make me unique.
This party is crammed full of industry insiders. I want them to remember me.
Even if it is just as "that stupid guy with the handcuffs."

If they remember your agent, they remember you, and I'll do whatever it takes to help you succeed as an actress.
But why does that mean...
...that he's always got to be the one to do the dirty work? Am I worth it?
Can you take my hat off? I can't see.
Hey!

I needed a break...
And what about your exams?
Queen Tamako
How is being handcuffed and chasing Thief Sexy around taking a break?
Well?
I thought you hated these parties.
Let me see your ankle.
Kan-chan, listen to me.
You don't have to do this. Why don't—?
Tamako.

You look beautiful tonight.
Just seeing you...
...has made this whole evening worth it.

Where does it hurt?
Ah...

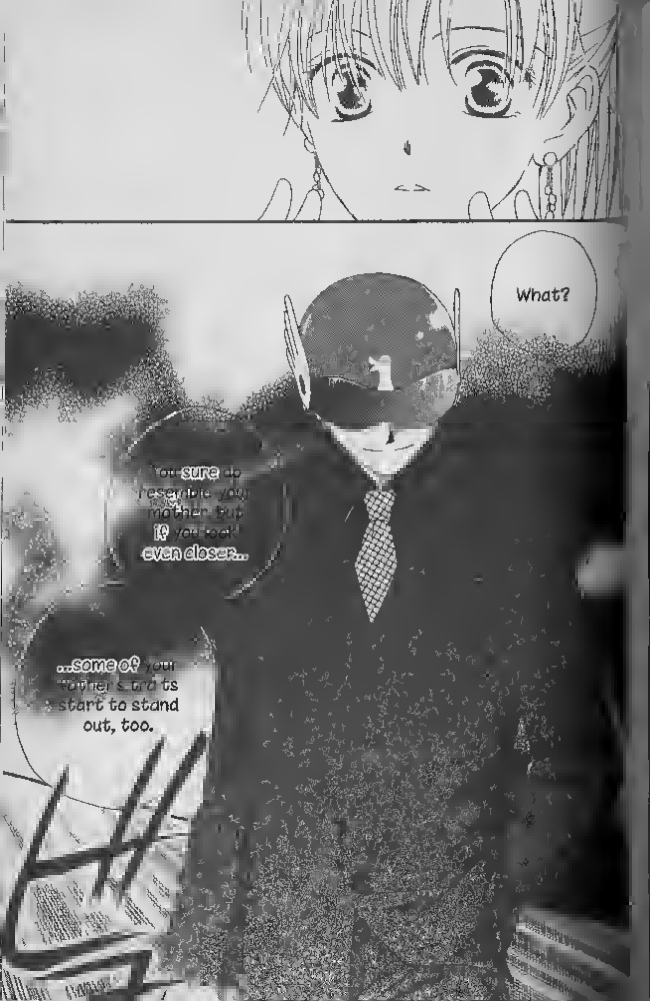
Oh, geez!
That was soooo stupid! I am such an idiot!!
Stay put. I'll go get a cold cloth and some ice.
GYAAA
OWOWOW OWOWOW OWWWW !!!!!!!!
There, huh?
He massaged my foot !
Waaaah!
Not that long ago, I heard a young girl saying much the same thing.
Today, she is one of my agency's top actresses.
Come on, self! Gotta harden your heart. I'm Just Dog Run's product! Their product...
Im not supposed to be this weak. I need to get stronger!

How is Mako-san doing?
Huh?

Are you a friend of my mother's?
Yep. From long before you were born.
Wow
MEN's
Thank God I had these handcuffs on.
She looked so shiny like that
Otherwise, knows where my hands would've gone?
Sailor uniform schoolgirls Shinju!
Really? ♡
Our theme was mother/daughter acting like lovers."
You look cute, too, Shinju-san.
Did you see Tamako?! Doesn't she look adorable in that dress? ♡
Ah ha!
Kanji-kun!!

Who's that guy talking with Tamako?
Hn?
Hm?
Where?
There, on the sofa.
See the guy in the sharp suit with the weird helmet?
Heel!
I thought you were awesome as Black Hurricane.
Um... thanks.
Heh-

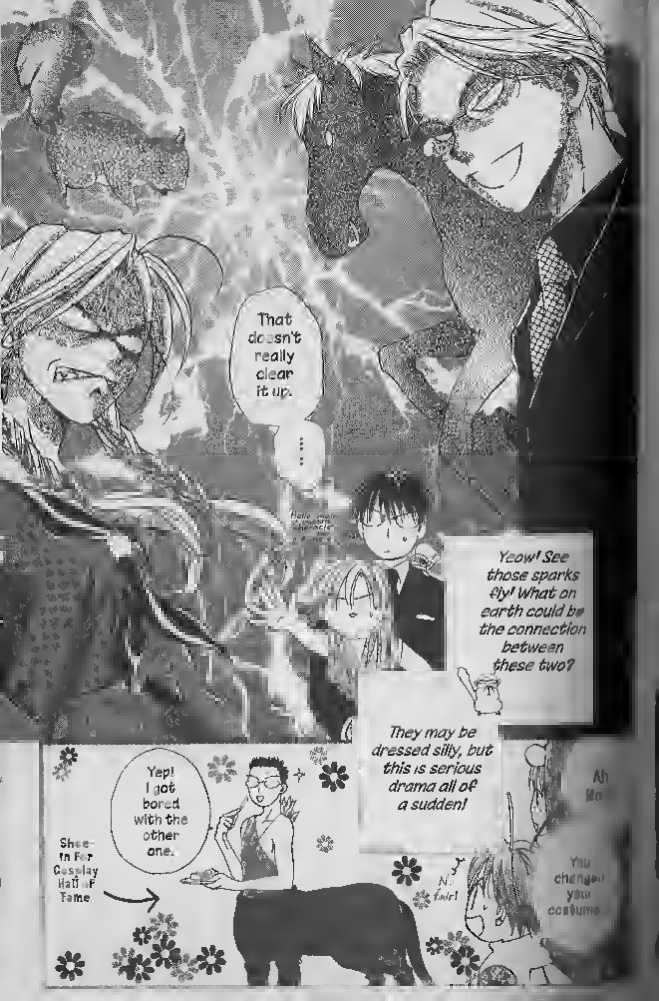
You totally had me fooled.
A badass villain like that turning out to be such a beautiful young lady...
It's an innovative story twist.
Lucky for you, a screenwriter of Iwao Maajima's caliber spotted your talent.
I'll admit, the character motivation amused me. "The destruction of showbiz to avenge her father's dream deferred!"
Did you know...
...that all of that stuff was based off of a very real person? Namely...you.


What?
You sure do resemble your mother, but if you look even closer...
...some of your father's traits start to stand out, too.

ドーン
Kids, don't try this at home!!
Step away from my daughter, dirt bag!
Now! Or the next pencil will draw you a new nostril! For real!!
!

My mom
You're positively frightening.
And by frightening, I mean you in that dress.
Mom!
Who is that guy?
Oh, yes
Pardon me for not introducing myself properly.

My name is Suzou Iwashiro. I'm the President and CEO of Eagle Productions, one of the largest talent agencies in the country.
It's a pleasure to meet you.
Umm...


That doesn't really clear it up.
...
Yeow! See those sparks fly! What on earth could be the connection between these two?
They may be dressed silly, but this is serious drama all of a sudden!
Yep! I got bored with the other one.
Shee-in For Caselay Half of Tame
Ah
Mo
You changed your costume
N
Fair!

Kanji-kun!!
Louie! Louie
Then what's the point of these?
Fork over that key, dammit!!

Step19
pearl Pink

"Mommy? What was Daddy like?"
Once, when I was little, I asked a small, innocent question about my dad.
I had been told he died before I was born.
Hmmmm
She's considering it!!!
Momoko! Don't listen to that dumb creak
Think it over
What the heck is this, you stupid thief?!
What?!
Momoko give up the idea of an idol detective for love
and I swear to never again don the mask of That Handsome
The Final Episode !
IDOL PI
MO MO KO
4

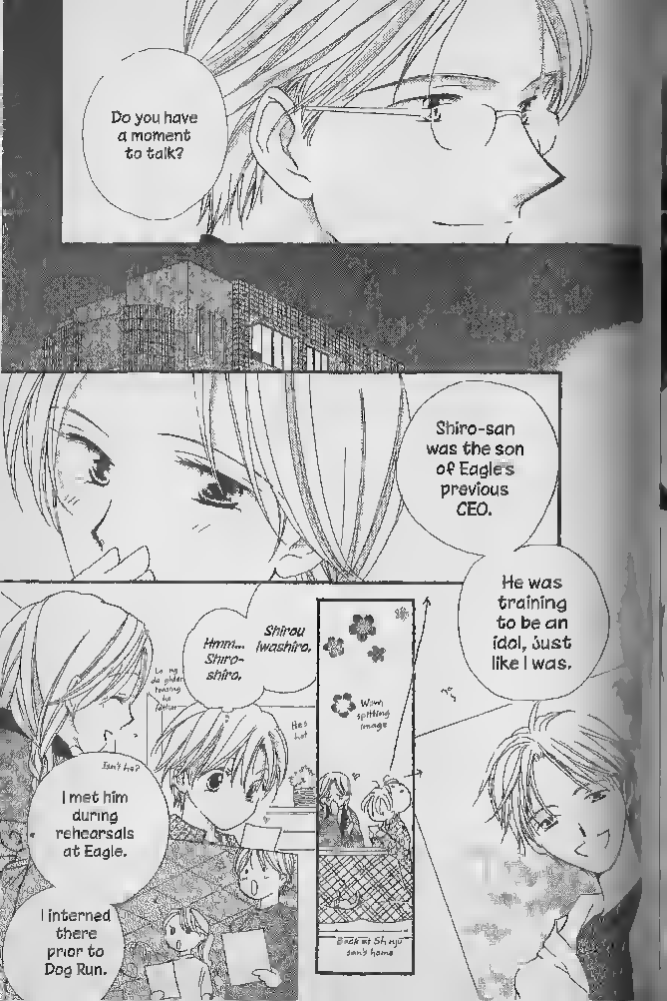
Cont on pg 131

"I'm sorry, mommy! I'm sorry!!"
"I won't ever ask again!! I promise!"
ぼろぼろぼろぼろぼろ
AAACK!
After that day...
..."father" was permanently banned from my vocabulary.
Hey!
We're going home!
Dragged out of the party
and thrown into a taxi
Um
Mom?"
Yes?

I'll pulverize you!!
I was wondering... um...is that Eagle Productions guy really my dad?
You don't have any idea, do you?
I'm sorry, darling.
I'll take that as a "no."
We've outgrown "it hurts too much to talk about," haven't we? You're old enough to know the truth about your father.
Driver

That man you just met... He's your uncle, your dad's twin brother.
...was Shirou Iwashiro.
COSPLAY FEVER
It's been ages since I had a chance to put so many characters in such ridiculous outfits. Man, was it fun!
Aah, drawing the party in that last chapter really helped me remember how much I love this stuff. Coincidentally, shortly after that chapter was published in its host magazine, Hakusen Sha had its own New Year's Party. Somebody started passing around a sketchbook, asking artists to draw something.
What should I draw?
Knuckle sandwich, anyone?
I think that makes this one different via views of Knuckle Sandwich that I've drawn so far this year.
Mega popular!

Suzou Iwashiro, Eagle Productions.
We met earlier
Oh!
Can't believe I'm here
Dog Run Kanji Inui. Pleased to meet you.
Where's my lighter...?
Leaving already?
I'm going home. You two behave!! Ya get me?!
You're certainly so well prepared
Er...well, I like to think ahead when it comes to parties
Somebody always forgets something.
Digging in his own pocket
I don't smoke though
I see. What was your name again? Kanji?
Thanks.


Do you have a moment to talk?
Shiro-san was the son of Eagle's previous CEO.
He was training to be an idol, just like I was.
I met him during rehearsals at Eagle.
I interned there prior to Dog Run.
Isn't he?
Hmm... Shiro-shiro.
Shirou Iwashiro.
He's hot
Warm, uplifting image
Back at Shirou-san's home

But after seeing the work he put into his craft, working that much harder than the rest of us, I knew he was serious.
At first, I thought he was just some wimpy rich boy taking advantage of his father's name to get ahead.
"Wow, you ran away from home..."
"...and came to the city by yourself?"
"You've got a lot of guts I'm going to have to work to keep up!"
He was kind, considerate, and just a really wonderful person.
I felt like I was the pauper who dated a king...
...but he was the first man I ever truly loved.

"You do know you have to break up with him, yes?"
"He's going to be making his debut soon. He doesn't need the likes of you leeching off him."
Then...
New idols aren't attractive to female fans if they don't think he's attainable.
That's the excuse he used to run me out of Eagle.
That bastard brother of his...
...had the same face as Shiro, but not his heart.
Did you tell Shiro-shiro about me?
The doors had already slammed behind me when I realized I had you growing in my tummy.

I couldn't. They all stopped me from seeing him.
The front office blew me off, saying he was "busy" getting ready for his debut.
They didn't want anyone to know that he'd gotten very, very sick...
.....
You're our daughter, Tamako. His and mine alone.
I didn't want Eagle to ever get their claws on you.
So, whenever anyone asked, except for very special friends, I've always told them...

...that you were my daughter with Iwao Majima.
I'm so sorry, Tamako...
Let's talk seriously, Kanji-kun.
How much do you know about Tamako-chan's father?

BBFF!!
?!
I thought it was common knowledge that her father is Iwao Mashima.
Oh, really?
Not much, I'm afraid.
Drawing closer
Ah-ha! So he's not, is he?
Better keep my mouth shut.
Is this who they were protecting Tamako from?
More tea, please
Well, it's not like I didn't have my suspicions.
Whatever ambition he had got passed on to his little girl.
I assumed she was Shirou's daughter.
He never had what it took to really make a play in the entertainment game.

...but want her to be a part of Eagle Productions.
What?
Regard... of how... I've be... kept... the de... Tama... chan is... my bl...
Knowing that, I almost can't help...
INSTANT ANSWER
Not a chance.
So, can I have her? Please?
True. Very true, young man.
Even if this... the appropri... place to dis... business, it's... not up to m...
I'm sorry, but I'll bid you good night.

Well, then...
How about I follow more "proper" channels this time?
7 DAYS AFTER
ON SATURDAY
...

Related New Year's break, boss?
Ha ha ha...
With that much time off you'd get fatter than Santa.
No arguing there.
Rain 2
SCHEDUL
DATE
DAY
NOTES
1 Sun OFF
2 Mon
3 Tue
4 Wed
Thu
2nd Album ON SALE
Man
10 Tue
Man, that's a lot of Xs.
Somebody is out to sink you boys.
One cancellation is normal-- two even But this many?! It's suspicious.
B-but our album's coming out soon If we don't promote it--
Hello, Dog Run.
Well, well. This is an unexpected pleasure.
So
Do you mind explaining your mental malfunction?
I'm going postal here at
Hm?

12 Thu
13 Fri
14 Sat "Star Rain II" Prelim Meeting
15 Sun
A sequel to "Star Rain"?!
Hey, wait. This one hasn't been cancelled yet.
What?!
My, my. I wonder what has her so happy.
Has the day off from filming
Woo. Hoo...
Yeah!
For real?! Like really real?!
Yeah!
Hello?
Oh, hello, Kinichi-san!
mako.

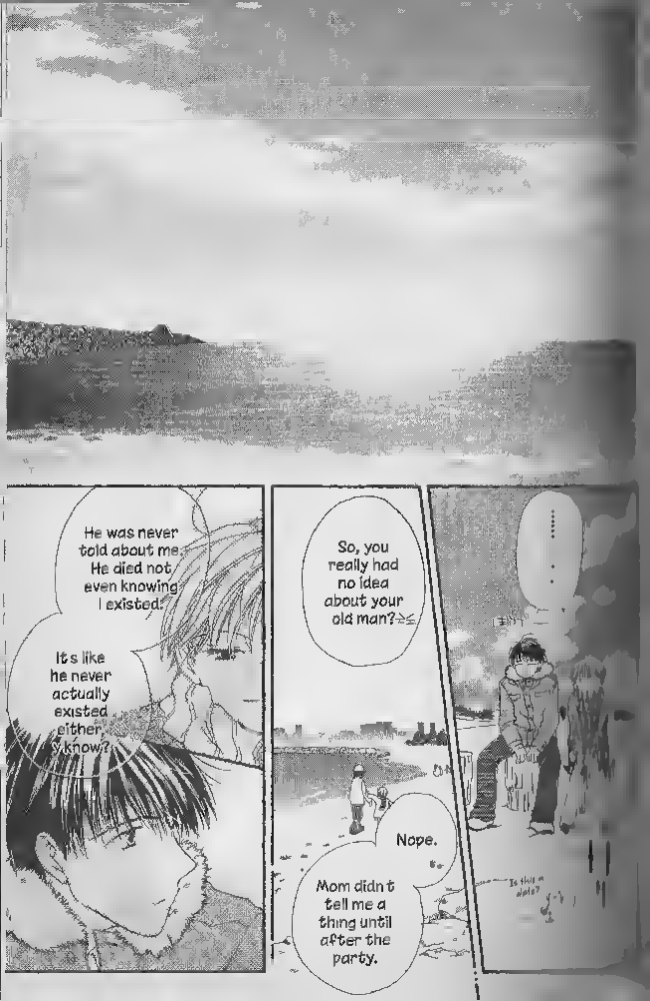
...is there any place you'd like to go?
So, um, my exams are pretty much over now.
Just a little left!
I'd like to take some time off while I wait for the results...
...and since you just got another big role, maybe we could go out and celebrate... so ...ah...
.....
.....
...Huh?
Give me a minute to think, okay?!
Just pick a place already!
Hold on!
Wait ng is your asking !!
If you won't decide, then we'll go to a department store! I haven't dressed you in anyth ng cute in ages!
No way! I'll think of someth ng! Don't be so pushy!
NAG! NAG!
Tense air

Let me go get changed first, then I'll--

Mom? What is it?

He got us.
I knew that if that bastard ever found out about Tamako, he'd try to make her a part of Eagle no matter what the cost.
I was scared he'd hurt her. He's capable of anything.
Even so, I never dreamed he'd go this far.

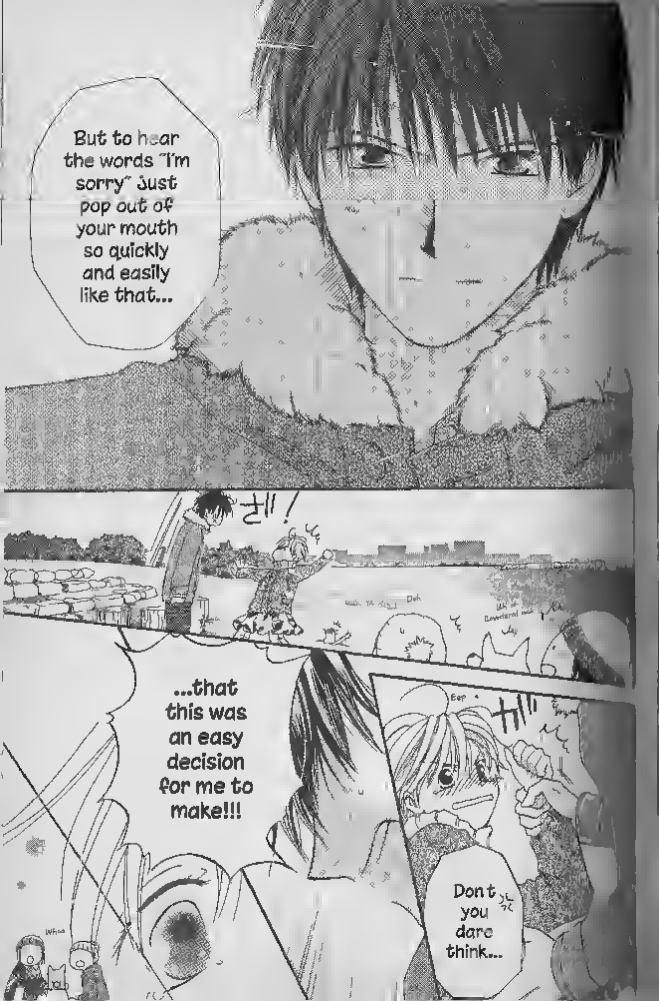
"Until Dog Run signs Tamako over to Eagle, hes going to squash any chance Rain has of success."
Aren't you needed?
You sure you don t have to work?
.....
Nah, It s I ant to stay out of t.
Besides, I prom sed you a date. You re mine until sundown-


He was never told about me. He died not even knowing I existed.
It's like he never actually existed either, y'know?
So, you really had no idea about your old man?
Nope.
Mom didn't tell me a thing until after the party.
Is this a date?

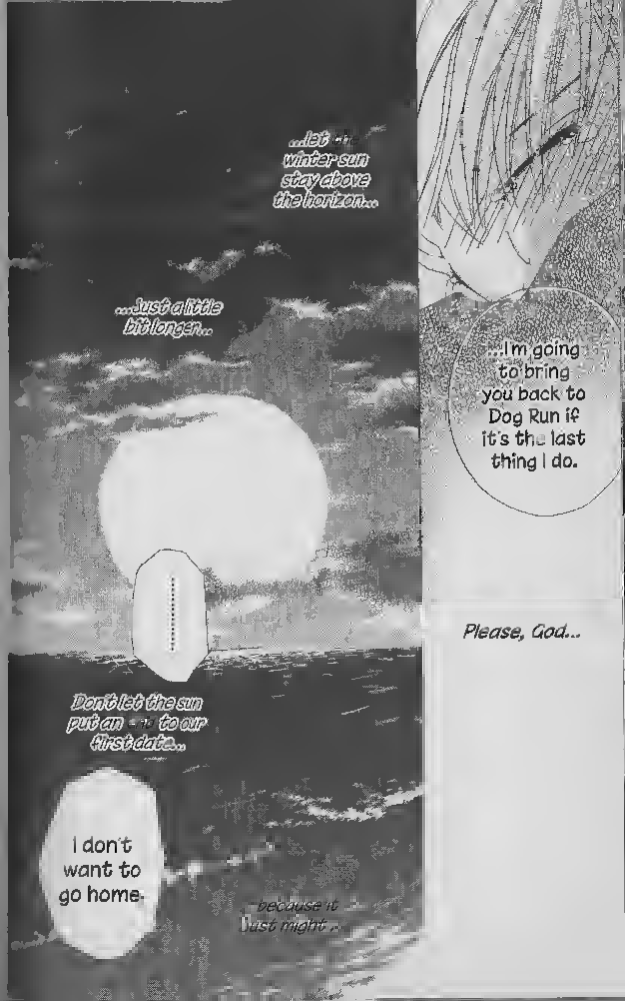
Oh, yeah, they were twins, right?
It must doubly hurt that her sworn enemy looks exactly like him.
Mom has never really said...
She must see in him what your father would look like if he lived
...but I'm sure that, in her heart, she's held him both as a lover and the father of her child.
.....
Tamako...

...I'm sorry.
I know. Don't worry, I'll go to Eagle.
I mean, I'm not stupid. Given a choice between a newbie actress with just one movie...
...and a boy band poised for the big time...
Ram's schedule is getting more desolate by the second.
This is a really important juncture in their career. They need to be seen.

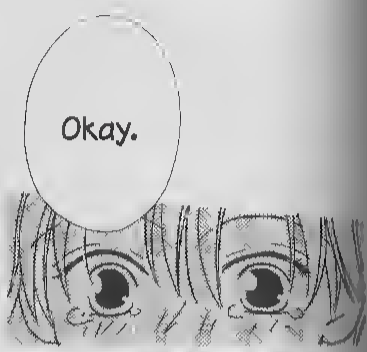
...I know which one the smart money is on.
Sand
And besides, I'd hate to see Rain dry up because of me.
I know your life's dream isn't just making me into a big star, either.
Are they fighting?
But she's smiling
Duh! I'm not stupid.
I know it's selfish of me to wish this was a harder decision for you, but...

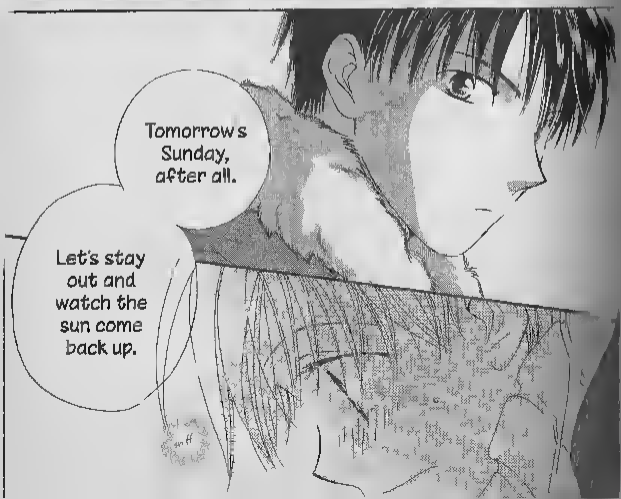

But to hear the words "I'm sorry" just pop out of your mouth so quickly and easily like that...
...that this was an easy decision for me to make!!!
Don't you dare think...

Aaw, dammit.
Now I've done it.
Tamako...
—do your best and hang in there, okay?
I'll come and rescue you before too long.
I don't care what I have to do...


...let the winter sun stay above the horizon...
...just a little bit longer...
Don't let the sun put an end to our first date...
I don't want to go home.
because it was last night...
...I'm going to bring you back to Dog Run if it's the last thing I do.
Please, God...

Huh?
Blow your nose
You don't wanna go, so we'll stay


Okay.


Tomorrow's Sunday, after all.
Let's stay out and watch the sun come back up.

Okay.
We'll stay until the end.
Thank you...for letting me be just a little bit selfish.
Tamako, don't! You don't want to be pregnant at 15!
Nooo
A sleepover date? Well done, m'boy!
Dog Fun Offices 1 a.m.
They aren't coming home...are they?
Weekly Lady Today
GUTTER-MINDED PARENTS

Kind words.
Firm kiss.
Warm hands
surrounding
mine.

What is this
I'm feeling...?

I... I thought I
was supposed
to be happy...

pearl pink

Step20
pearl pink

It felt like hardly any time had passed...
...when we started the filming on "Star Rain II."
"Star Rain"...
"Just saying that name leaves a nasty taste in my mouth."
No.3
I've made up my mind!
YAHAA!
MOMOKO
Online LIVE
Ehmmm
A question!
he'll love the me who isn't an idol who isn't a detective The me who loses around the house a month drinking beer and watch ing TV all day?
But then does that mean
my eternal rival the main I've chased my entire career will have steal again
If I give up my life as an idol detective Thief Handsome
The Fi Episode
IDOL M
MO MO KO
5
2

←Cont on pg 161

She means "that kiss" in the previous film.
~You will pay a very dear price for humiliating me...~
~...Raizo!~
There's no gap between actor and action.
Thank you!
Perfect!
She's so awesome ...!!
Cut! Okay!

FOR LACK OF A BETTER TOPIC...
The other day I went for a walk to the nearby beach to take some pictures
Yaaay!
Don't run too far!
Chotgreene Ms. Itch de-
It was the afternoon on a normal weekday so absolutely nobody was there. Walking by myself on an empty beach was great!
Oh, look. Kitties!
Ouch, what's my camera?
Umm... that's not what you wanted pictures of
We rode the Ferris wheel but the view was blurry from all the smog
Ha ha Um
Do I really have to go back the w?
People have always said When country folk move to the city, their nose hairs grow longer "I wonde-" if that's true?
(Maybe it's because the airs so dirty?)
Want a m nute wow nose hairs s not a phrase you see much in shojo manga
Fern nissing
Speaking of my dad had a hair growing out of his mole he had on his shoulder
—Yeah, nobody cares. I know.
Once again, I was playing the Flower of Evil, Black Hurricane.
We're at the spot where the script gets complicated. I get all confused and mad about Raizo's romantic moves on me.
The sweetheart
Yo! Hurri!
Put some fan-fi ction flare come
Raizo! Yukiya! Hisame!
How have you all been?
The cast from the first movie is back. Same crew, too.

We're really sorry, Tamako-chan.
Busy, thankfully. We got new bookings for promoting the new album.
In fact, the only thing that's different this time around...
...is that I'm here not as a talent from Dog Run, but as a talent from Eagle Productions.
About what?
I bugged Kanji about it, but he swears "nothing happened."
So, spill the beans! What really happened on your sleepover?
Oh, yeah! Anyway, Tamako-chan...
Tell me what happened, already! I wanna know!

ALL OF IT!
Well, I had fun.
Momono-san.
Too bright!
Whoa!
Gah! Was it a date or two buddy-buddy high-school chicks hanging out for an evening?
Morning
TIME / ACTIVITY
Dinner & conversation at a diner
An exciting walk along the beach
Cold!
All night karaoke
Morning
Schedule & Transportation Manager
Is that your manager from Eagle?
Well he's more professional than your old agent!
Yeah
Yessir.
Yessir.
Yessir.
The president has informed me that he will be picking you up this evening. Tomorrow, filming won't start until the afternoon, so prepare to leave school after 4th period. Wait outside the main gate. I will pick you up at precisely 12:30.
Oh! Yessir!
I'm heading into the office.

Yeah. It's kind of easier this way, really.
Kan-chan promised me he would bring me back to Dog Run.
You feeling down?
Candy
I need to be patient, I have to trust that he will come for me when he can.
EAGLE PRO
DIRECTORY
8
7
6 STUDIOS A ~ F
5 REHEARSAL ROOM (TEENAGE TALENT)
4 REHEARSAL ROOM (YOUNG CHILDREN)
3
Meanwhile...
5th Floor Teenage Talent Rehearsal Room
...the very person Tamako has placed such trust in...

Are you so dense you can't put trash in the wastebasket? Is this how stars are made?!
... has started working as a janitor at Eagle for no apparent reason
Don't you dimwitted dolts ever learn?!
Hey, who is that loudmouth, anyway?
I don't know him personally, but rumors say...
... that he's Tamako Momono's former agent.
Whoa, really?
?

You don't know a damn thing!!
But you're hauling trash.
Huh?

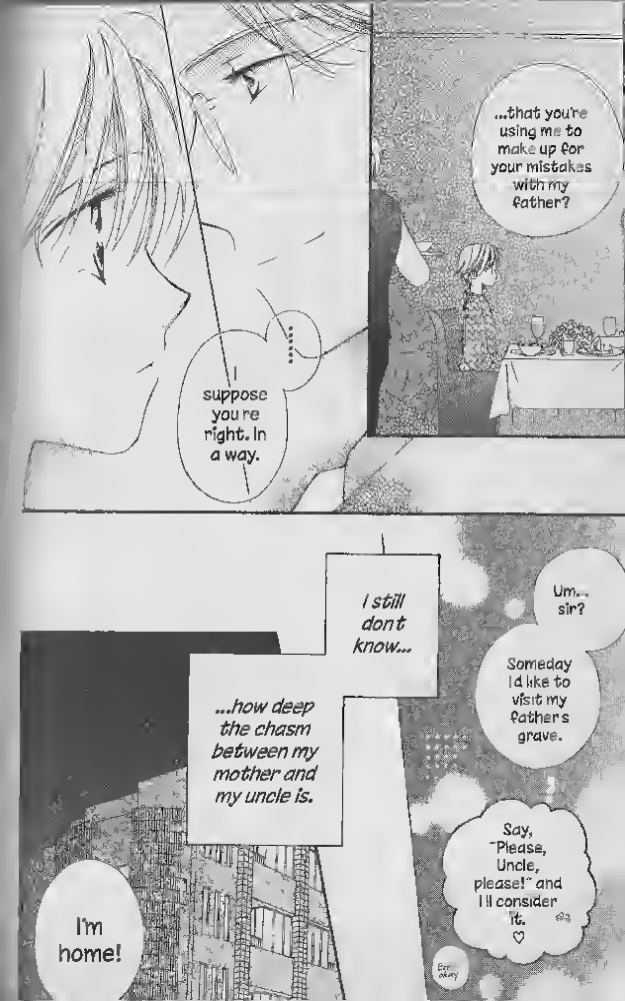
Poor guy.
Really?
Dog Run booted him for losing her. This is the only job he could get.
Tamako Momono? The Black Hurricane chick?
Isn't she an Eagle client now?

Please, sir, tell me!
OFFICE
Replay START
Listen, it goes like this...
What do I have to do to make you release Tamako from her contract?
Wow.
Now, that was impressively direct.
Trust me, sir. If I could, I would.
But I can't. Unlike you, I don't have the money or the connections to make people do what I want.
That's why I'm asking.
Aren't you supposed to, you know... sneak in when I'm not looking, sweep her off her feet, and steal her away?

My methods were on the forceful side. That was hardly sporting. So, how about –
Fair enough.
I'll do whatever it takes. Demand anything of me.
I want her back.
...you infiltrate my organization?
Huh?
I turn a blind eye while you secretly spy on us.
Take on a job as a janitor or something, and see if you can't come up with some dirt to blackmail me.
Find some gossip big enough to be worth trading for Tamako-chan, and I'll consider letting you have her back.
Looks to me like...
Fin
END

I can't help it. It would be against my nature to ignore this mess!
DAMITI
...you got so excited doing the cleaning, you forgot to spy!
Hmm Is there any gossip?
Yeah Has so cool!
Oh boss is way too clever
Your department's messiest of all Are you listening?
You should thank me by dishing on your boss!
Hm?
Um...Mr. President?
Why did you want me to be a client with Eagle?

I guess it's a simple question...
Ah. Another fanatic Ya need one
When I finally took a position in the family business
...the first entertainer I represented was Shirou, your father
Dinner
Yessir."
Still cold
Please, call me "Uncle." ♡
My dear, "Mr President" has such a cold ring to it
Drinks
I always regretted that he died without realizing his dream.
So, you're saying...
I'm fine I'm fine!
I was so excited to be working, I kind of went overboard.
Shirou was always sickly, and I can't help but think I may have demanded too much of him.


...that you're using me to make up for your mistakes with my father?
I suppose you're right. In a way.
Um... sir?
Someday I'd like to visit my father's grave.
I still don't know...
...how deep the chasm between my mother and my uncle is.
Say, "Please, Uncle, please!" and I'll consider it. ♡
I'm home!

Mom, do you know where Dad was buried?
Ha! No, those vipers would never tell me
Hmph!
You ate dinner with Juzou again, didn't you?
I asked Uncle to take me sometime.
After he does, I'll show you where it is.
Maybe if I try...
...I can be a little bridge over the gap.

Showing them everything you've got right off the bat is beyond stupid
Cover the goods, ya dink!
Hey!
Hmm... makeup's not bad.
Yeah.
It's for a manga magazine cover, so I'm showing off my figure.
Shoooga!
What do you mean?
They usually decide right on the spot. Good luck!
Hmm...
The Eagle standard!
That's right! You have an audition tomorrow, don't you?

But having your hair up like that makes your face look sharp and angular. I'd leave it down if I were yo
And they're going to ask you to take the shirt off so button it up and make them want to see underneath
Letting them watch will have way more impact.
……
Du pan
The next day...
I did exactly what you said, and I got the cover!!
Thank you so much
Really?
Congrats.
They wanted baby-faced and big boobed!
お
お
お
Either clear or black mascara.
Okay
Your complexion demands warm colors. Dress brigh
More people came for advice
Was our outfit okay?
Perfect
Too perfect. Don't over practice
And more ...and more

No.3
Let his hair grow.
Raizo, darling, is it true?
Is Kanji-kun really scrounging for new talent over at Eagle?
Whaa --?!
Oh, dear— He's not?
Why did I see him there the other day?
He was surrounded by some of their top teen talent.
I thought it must have been a fluke, but then I heard stories...
Did he say anything, Raizo?
I haven't seen him in days.
He hasn't been at Dog Run at all

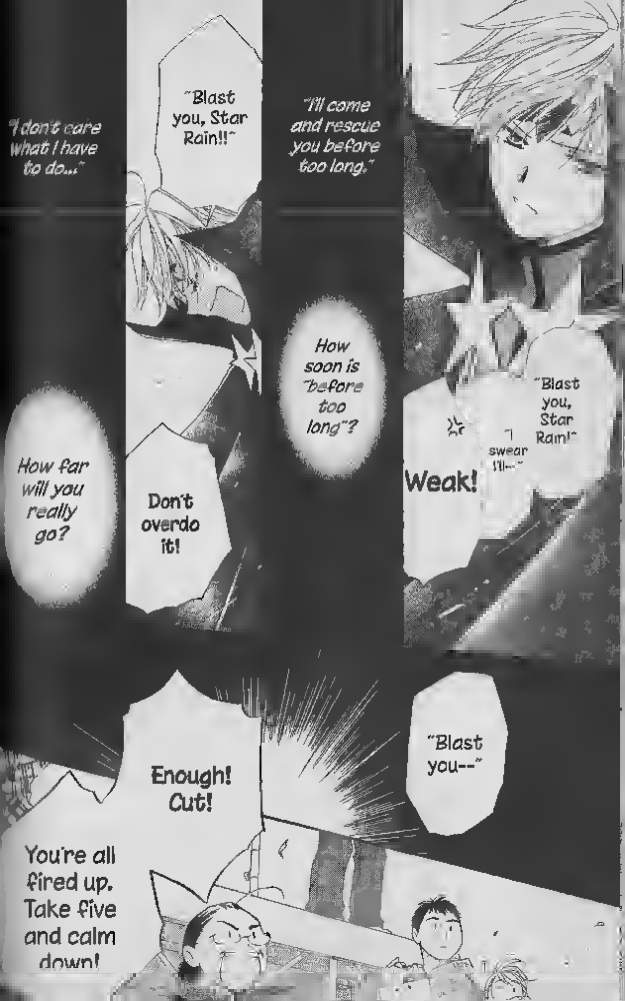
WAAAY TOO EASY TO IMAGINE
Oh, dear me. First they take Tamako-chan, and now this!
Is it possible Eagle made a deal with Kanji? Maybe they offered him another girl as trade, and he's having a hard time deciding which one!

N-no.

Why...?
Why did he have to say that?
"Do your best and hang in there, okay?"
What if she's more talented than I am?
But what if he finds somebody he likes better than me?
I'd love to say, "That would never happen, but...
Lunch Break

I want to trust him. I really do...
Hmph, nothing...
You know, now that I really think about it...
...he probably only gave me permission to do this because there's no dirt to find around here.
Oooh! There he is!
Kanji-sensei, we have a question!!
HEEEY!
Now I've given a leg up to the young clients of my rivals!
Sensei! Sensei!
BEEP
Yeah? Oh, hey, Raizo.
Now? Investigating Eagle
Sensei, where are you going?
Right.

To see a girl!
Juuzo's come to watch the show!
My! This is quite the gale.
Excellent! Black Hurricane's cape is fluttering perfectly!
Watch your step!
Don't fall, Tamako-chan, or you'll be impaled on the crystals.
Ready!!
Yup
Tamako Memoria I bet
Aaw, he's not single.
The various reactions of Eagle's fans.

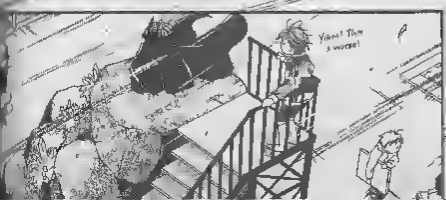

"I don't care what I have to do..."
"Blast you, Star Rain!!"
"I'll come and rescue you before too long."
How soon is "before too long"?
"Blast you, Star Rain!"
"I swear I'll--"
Weak!
How far will you really go?
Don't overdo it!
"Blast you--"
Enough! Cut!
You're all fired up. Take five and calm down!

Um... I'm nervous. It...hurts.
The one thing I have no faith in is my own value.
"Tamako..."

"...I'm sorry."

It doesn't matter what he said. Or how kind he was.

As soon as he said those two words--
"I'm sorry"--
everything faded away.



Sorry.
.....
Not in this scene
Yeesh, this is some wind!
Unconsciously flinching
Tamako-chan, Kanji is not going to abandon you to Eagle.
Nothing personal, but I really don't feel like talking to Rain right now.
Erm... Well, we're on break, so I'm just me.
Dust Someone's Eyes
Maybe...
...but what good to him is a lousy actress like me?

Tamako, you reject! What the hell is all of this moping? What are you? Three?!
You hear all that...
...Kanji?
Self phone
B-but it's your fault I'm in a bad mood!!
You never call me!
You're screwing up everyone's schedule! Tell the crew you're sorry and shoot the damn scene!!
Whaaa --?!
Ah
Too loud
I'm... I'm sorry.
I don't want to hear your apologies!
Okay, how about this?

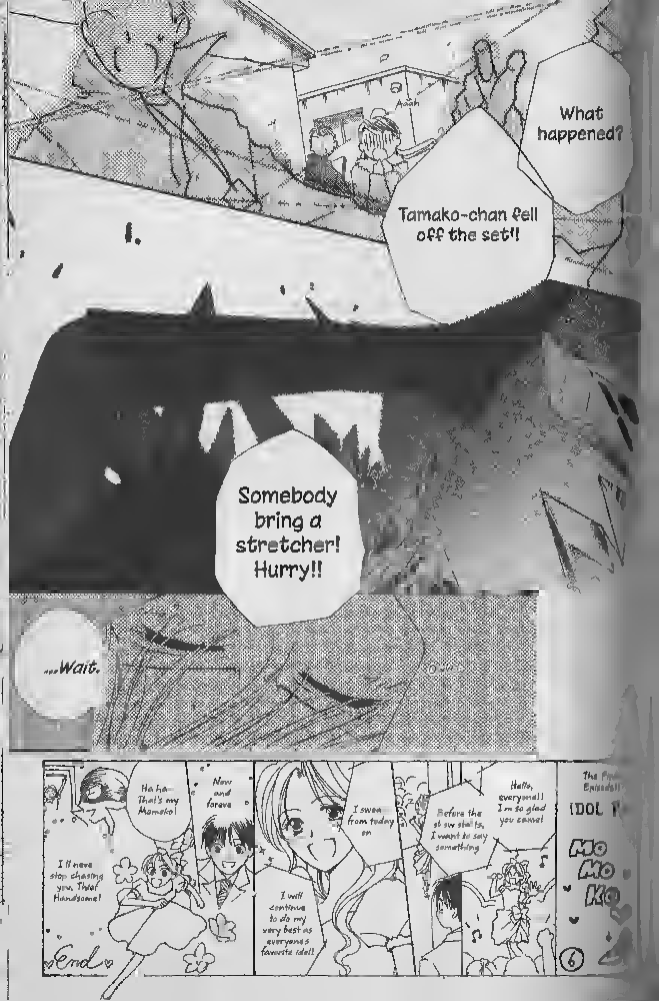
I love you.

Tamako!!
Kan-chan's...
calling me...

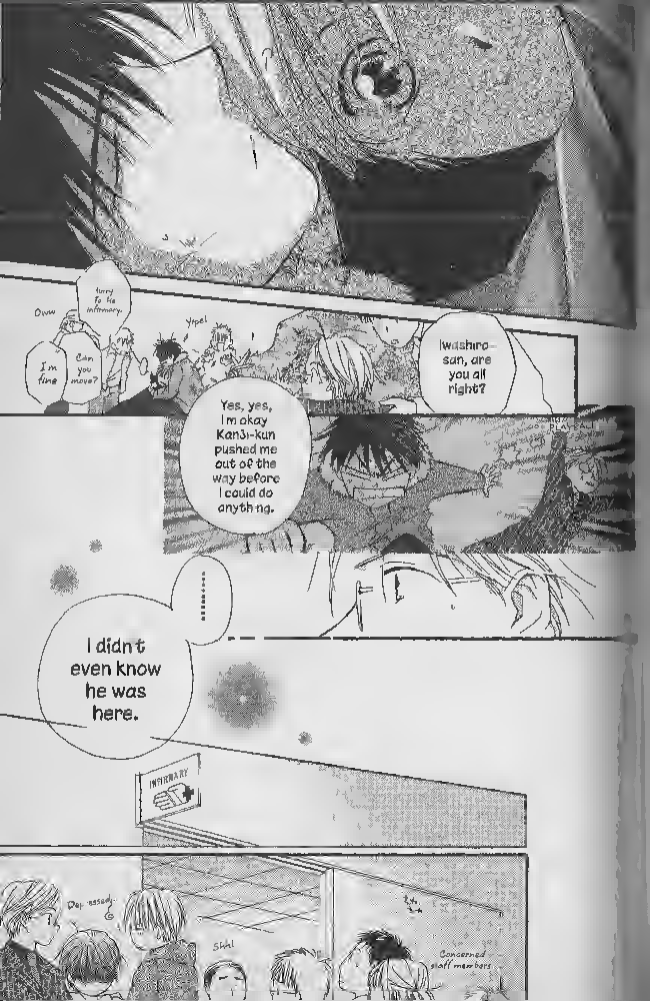
I want to answer him...

...but my hands won't reach...

Final Step
Pearl Pink


What happened?
Tamako-chan fell off the set!!
Somebody bring a stretcher! Hurry!!
...Wait.
Ha ha— That's my Mamako!
Now and forever
I'll never stop chasing you, Tiva! Handsome!
End
I swear from today on
I will continue to do my very best as everyone's favorite idol!
Before the show starts, I want to say something
Hello, everyone!! I'm so glad you came!
MO MO KO
6

This doesn't hurt as much as I thought it would...
Are you okay?! Tamako-chan!
Kanji-kun!


Owww
I'm fine
Can you move?
Hurry to the infirmary.
Yipe!
Iwashiro-san, are you all right?
Yes, yes, I'm okay Kanji-kun pushed me out of the way before I could do anything.
PLAYLAND
I didn't even know he was here.
INFIRMARY
Hey, sassy.
Shh!
Concerned staff members

"I love you."

Kan--

Then get your butt back out there and shoot this movie!

INFINITE GRATITUDE

I received tons of help from so many different people during the making of Pearl Pink. Thank you all so much. I really appreciate everything you did for me. To my supervisor and boss: thank you so much for guiding me through all my worries and confusion. (Has it really been six years since we started this team?)

And the biggest thanks of all go out to all the faithful readers who have stuck with me for this whole ride.

Thank you!!

Please send thoughts and comments to:

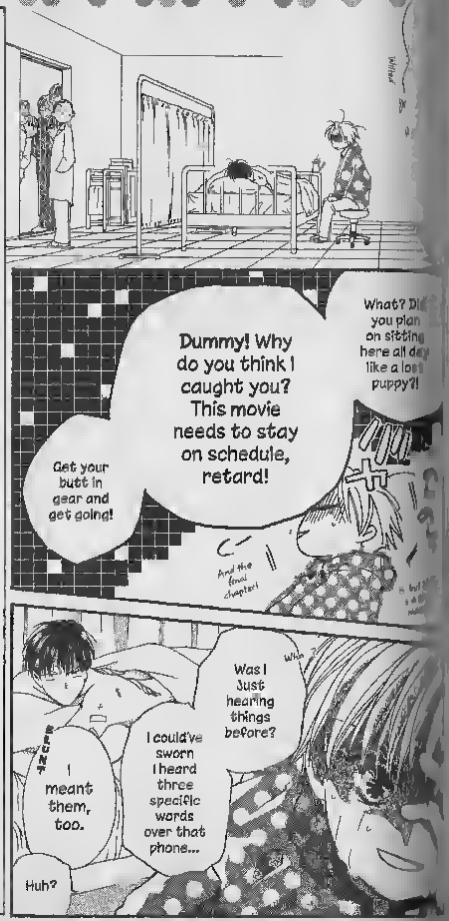
Pearl Pink Mail
c/o TOKYOPOP
5900 Wilshire Blvd
Suite #2000
Los Angeles
CA 90036

※ Note ※

This series may be over but I hope I've succeeded in leaving some happy memories as you continue with your lives. I also promise to continue writing.

Shirou

See you at the end of the book!

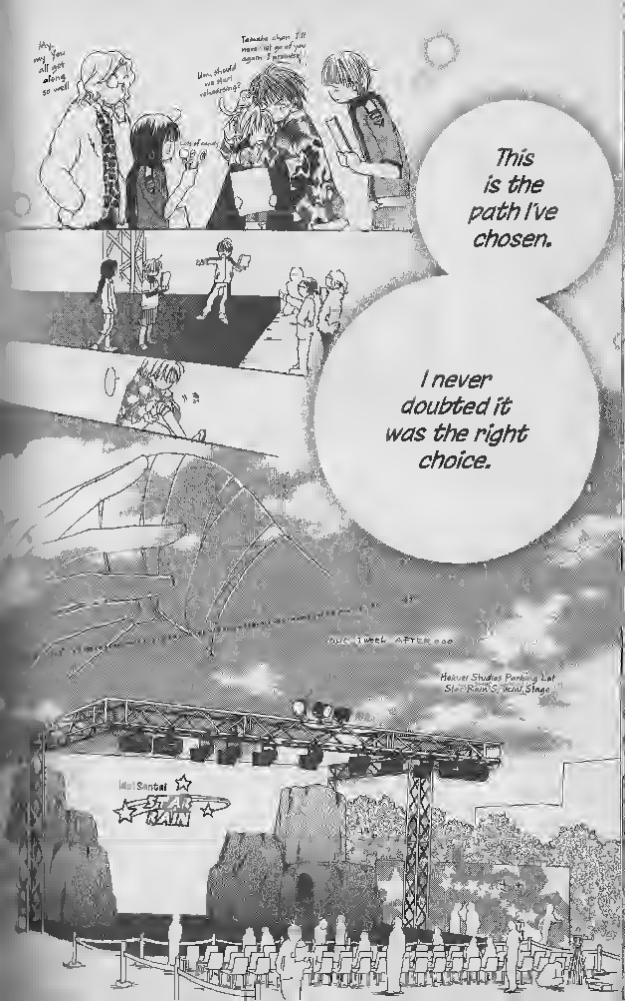

What? Did you plan on sitting here all day like a lost puppy?!
Dummy! Why do you think I caught you? This movie needs to stay on schedule, retard!
Get your butt in gear and get going!
And the final chapter!
Was I just hearing things before?
I could've sworn I heard three specific words over that phone...
I meant them, too.
Huh?

I love you.
I love watching you put everything you've got into your work.
Oh...
He finally said it.

Good luck.
I'd better get going.
Sorry, man.
I froze up. I couldn't do a thing to save Tamako-chan from falling.
Kanai!
Hey.
Get back to work, too.
We should head out, too.
Yeah
There's a lot to do still.

Thank you.
How noble to take the fall, given that it was for an Eagle actress.
Don't be an idiot! What if you wound up getting hurt, too?
I'm not integral to the film, so it's better this way.
Oh, by the way...
A-CK!
And what the hell kind of guidance are you giving those kids?! Any at all?!
Are you kidding?!
...is it true that you're having your way with all the female clients at Eagle?
What?
I mean, seriously! They're all coming to me for advice on common-sense questions!!
An agency your size should at least have an on-site advisor for just that reason!!
Oh... I'm sorry...
Two whole years...

I heard you fell!
What are you doing back already? Weren't you hurt?
Dear.
No, I'm fine!
Has it really been that long since I first wanted Kan-chan to love me?
Lovely.
Do you think you can handle this, then?
Being me that you
I wrote you a super-flashy entrance, but if you think it's too much to do on your poor knee, let me know. I can change it
Idol Sentai
STAR MAN
Press Conference
Special Attraction
Script & Layout
A press conference?
Yes. You and your co-stars will do a short skit to entertain journalists. Like a living ad for the sequel.
Don't worry! I'm ready!
Wait until you read it to answer


Hey, you all got along so well
Tanaka-chan, I'll never let go of you again, I promise!
Um, should we start rehearsing?
This is the path I've chosen.
I never doubted it was the right choice.
ONE WEEK AFTER
Hakuei Studios Parking Lot
Star Rain's Special Stage
Idol Sentai
STAR RAIN

Yeah.
You've never performed for a live audience, have you?
Oh, yeah.
It's a pretty big crowd.
Did he do this on purpose?
Hey there!
Then you nailed the Black Hurricane performance, and any doubts about you went right out the window.
You know, ev during the fi movie, everyo thought of Just as the Momone lovechild

Oh! Hello.
Tamako-chan...
What?
...do you have a fever?
Idol Sentai
STAR RAIN
CHANGING ROOM
Howdy
How are you feeling?
Oh!
Hmm
OW! OW OW OW OW!!
?
Hush! And hold still!

Tamako!
Oh, it's Kan-chan!
Hey, what's wrong with you?
Hi, Kan-chan. How's your back?
MORON!
Worry about yourself first!!
Oh, it's not that bad.
And just so you know...
The cuts on your knee are getting infected.
Ouch
Your condition is worsening. These wounds are causing your fever!

Just try and tell me something dumb about taking it easy, and I'll put you right back in that hospital. Got it?
Almost said just Hide.
Don't worry about me. That guy's still your boss.
Exactly!!

Yeah.
Why is it always your right leg? First your ankle, now this.
Put something cold and inflammatory on it too.
Kan-chan...
...you traded me over to Eagle because you thought I wasn't as important for Dog Run as Rain.
Their career's more stable.
See if there's anything we can help her with.
She's got a lot of action scenes to do.
Mr. President.
You wanted me at Eagle because I'm your niece, not because you believed in me.
So neither of you have any right whatsoever to say anything about anything I do as an actress!

Sit back, shut up and watch me work it!
Emotion, familial connections...
Neither has any real value in this world.
Ladies and gentlemen, please find your seats. The show will begin shortly.
Hmph.
A press conference for "Star Rain"? It's terribly vulgar.
This is what I've worked for.
Princess! What on Earth are you doing with the press, darling?
Thank goodness. It's just you
Come backstage before someone sees you.
No.
Juzou's back there.
That's why we're out here.

There!
.. and now you people? Ugh! It makes my skin crawl.
Stuck working with costumed goodie-two-shoes..
Up top!
I chose this path, and I walk it gladly.

"I love you."
What's the deal, Hurri?! How come you get a better entrance than the good guys?!
Don't call me Hurri!
ha ha ha ha ha ha

"I love watching you put everything you've got into your work."
Stay back! I'm warning you!
Kan-chan, are you watching?
Are you?
She's right. Remove everything else, and she's good.
No wonder she felt insulted.

THANK YOU SENSEI!
This April, the work schedule of our teen performers is going to explode.
Every single one of them credits your advice for their success.
APRIL SCHEDULE (Teenagers)
Here.
?
You're no slouch either, I must say.
Eagle actually has its own advisor on staff..
...so imagine my embarrassment over their booking gigs because of what a rival agent told them. Talk about juicy gossip!
Looks like you've got your blackmail.
Keep watching me.

Keep watching from now until forever.
Your skills are impressive.
Shirou's legacy--and his little girl--are safe in your hands.
ばばば
Like this?
Yeah!
Tamako-chan!
Smile!

WHOA!!
Aw, man...!
That wonderful smile was our private joy, but now we have to share...
THUD
That's right. All the public's ever seen is your villain face. No wonder they were surprised..
Thud"?

AAAck!!
Somebody bring a stretcher!
What happened?
INFIRMARY

By the way, you're coming back to Dog Run.
Huh?!
What do you mean, "huh"? I told you I'd get you back.
What're you so --?
...
It was an impressive performance. You can relax.
Gimme a break.
I can't believe I was so pathetic! Just seeing my mother with I'm sick I get all weak! Waaah!
Oh, wow! That was sooo uncool...!!
You should be giving me feedback!
Did you really watch me? Was I really good, or did I suck?!
Hey! Tamaki! Whoa--
Huh?
Didn't you hear me?! No one orders me around!!

Kan-chan... do you really want to be my agent?
Huff!
Am I really worth it?
Yes.

Yes, I do. And you are.
I'll never let anyone else have my Tamako Momono.

Finally...!
Geez, it seems like forever since you hugged me like this, monkey girl.
Feels different now
Wah!
Y-yeah... it's been way too long...
Wah!
Ohhh I feel all warm and fuzzy inside
Hmph!

Thank you for keeping an eye on my daughter's health.
ROBOTIC VOICE
No problem.
After all, her father's condition taught me to recognize feverish behavior.
See?

Psst!
Boss, are you sure this is okay?
I mean, you were the one who flatout forbid romances between agents and clients, right?
Ack! I laughed
Pffft
What did I laugh at?

I can finally hold my head up high and stand proudly by his side.

Well
True. That kind of relationship can have a negative effect on productivity.
The Mao Yaoi Incident
But in this case...
...I think everything will be peachy... as long as they don't break up.
Whoa!
Hey...
And with that...

Yeah...
...in a minute...
...don't you think it's about time you let go?
At least move over a little.
I can't control myself forever!
!!
...Kanji and Tamako's love story truly began.
Final wo aji courtesy of Kanta

Pearl Pink / End

B-b-but...
You said I was too scrawny to molest...
Back to volume 1
Danger warning...?
True
Love's a strange thing, though
You're a full-fledged woman now, so watch out

The next couple of pages are extras I added on just for this collection. Feel free to skim through them if you want

Special Addition: "Promise"

Your next film is an Edo era drama. You'll be playing a peasant girl.
Whoa, boy, this is a lot of kanji.
Learn how to read them already!
AFRO SAMURAI IN LOVE ☆☆
Aw, man...
...were you in love with Tamako-chan?
Absolutely.
Hmm
Whew- I didn't think he'd be so blunt about it
Shocked!
But I never had the guts to really try and win her away from Kanai.
○ Studio ○
I bet it's cool to be in love.
Raizo... um...
What I mean is, I would love them all equally... but I can't, and that's not fair to the girls! There is no room for ambivalence in love, it's an

...I liked both of them too much to get in between them.
I guess, in the end...
You can't read that? Aren't we supposed to be a high school student now?!
Poor dear
Yaay
You can't have Serika-chan!
Maybe Serika-chan would be interested...
Instead, I'm currently accepting candidates for the role of Raizo's Beautiful Girlfriend. Know any potential stars?
Not really...
Oh, yeah!
Yukiyo
Onii-chan!!

Maiko!
Mommy said she had an errand here, so I came, too!
Is this your little sister?
Yukiya and Maiko brother and sister
ぽぉ
Red Thunderrrr !!!
Uh-oh. A "Star Rater" fan!
I'm so glad it's him and not that other dude.
Afro Samurai In Love
If only there were good beautiful girls out there...
I'm so lonely
Red Thunder, did you really like Black Hurr one? She's evil!
I'll be your girlfriend!

Special Addition "Promise" / END

MecaSite
Condensed!
My prior glasses! I had them for eight long years, since I was still in school. I've always been able to fix them before, but sadly, they've met their end.
Goodbye, cell-frames! Goodbye...!
And I just broke my glasses! Waaaaah!
Oh! Um...hi, everyone. I'm Meca Tanaka.
About the "Promise" extra, a good 80% of all the fan letters I received asked about Raizo, and they inspired this short.
Not enough room in the main story.
So, once again... hello, everyone! I'm Meca Tanaka.
peep peep
Right, got to find my spare pair.
Ummm
MECA SITE

So, without further ado, here's a peek into the "Happily Ever After" of our remaining characters!

Going together to visit Shirou's grave, arguing every step of the way

Quit following me

We're going in the same direction but not together!

Shinju and Juzou continue to bicker like there's no tomorrow, but both have accepted the fact that the other is someone they can talk with and share memories with about Shirou. Romantically, I don't think anything's going to happen here. If anyone's going to propose to Shinju, it's going to be Woo-woo.

You know I always did really like her

Several years down the road, Tamako will get the lead role in a remake of her mother's famous show, "Idol P.I. Momoko." Tamako gleefully wears her mother's original costumes, and they fit her perfectly...for the most part. Unfortunately, there's a little bit of extra room in the chest. Oh well. You can't have everything. Kanji, on the other hand, will have a bit more room. He had always been picked on for looking older than his age, but as he got older, his looks didn't really change. Eventually, everyone began saying he looked younger than his age.

Though you did get taller

Drat. That part of me never grows

Raizo, 28 years old

Hiro being Yukiya's little sister is a good cover to give to paparazzi!

Getting over the sophomore slump, Rain enjoyed a long, stable run as a popular boy band, but eventually they split up. Yukiya went on to become a choreographer, and Hisame decided to make his debut as a solo (!!) artist. Raizo moved on to a career in acting and, as promised, started dating Maiko when she became a high school student. At first, he intended to just go with the flow, but as time passed, he discovered he wasn't really all that averse to a serious relationship with her.

I think it would be nice

Mr. Yamamoto
Koyasu Uchida (This is all thanks to you, really.)
Sano (Thanks for everything!)
Hayashi
Kouno
Igasa
Ohno
The Staff and Voice Cast for the drama CDS.
My boss
Everyone who supported me.
Everyone who's reading this manga (you!).
Thank you so very much, everyone!!!

I hope we can see each other
again in my next series...!

Meca Tanaka

Mecasite Condensed / End